

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
March 21, 2011
7:00 p.m.
City Hall – Room 2C
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Members present: Linda Murray - Chairwoman, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairman, Shaun McColgan - Secretary, and Kim Botelho (by phone conference) -Commissioner.

Absent / excused: Nelle Tresselt. There are two vacancies on the Commission.

Guests: Brian Batterson and Greg Cascio (prospective new commissioners).

Public speaking: none

Item: **Approval of February 23, 2011 meeting minutes** – Motion to approve – Ed, 2nd-Shaun, vote – approved by all.

Reports:

Still River Greenway (SRG): The SRG Alliance has requested a meeting with the Commission, to be held next month.

Bear Mountain Reservation (BMR): The culvert on the red trail has washed out again due to the recent heavy rains. It may be a problem with getting the fields mowed later this year. There are also some trees that came down on the trails. Kim did a tour of the bird houses at BMR with the goal of evaluating them to decide if they needed to be replaced. There are approximately 16-19 houses that need replacement. The Youth Volunteer Corp will be at BMR on April 2nd to put up the new bird houses.

There has been some illegal dumping in the parking lot area. Shaun will keep an eye on it to find out who it might be.

Dog park issue at BMR: It is the opinion of the commission, and based on the federal deed, that BMR would be inappropriate as a dog park location. The federal deed states that the reservation is “to be used as a natural park for nature walks, observations of birds and other wildlife, picnics, and scenic enjoyment.” It appears that a dog park would be a violation of the federal deed restrictions.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Ed reported that the OQNC is getting regularly used by hikers and also reported that some of the trails there also need attention from the recent weather.

Old Business / Key Initiatives:

BMR / SRG mowing: No problems. The bids are out for new mowing contracts.

Meadows management at BMR: Nothing new to report.

Budget management: The budget is in good shape for now. Some monies might need to be allocated to SRG for work on the trails there.

Commission development: Brian Batterson should become a member of the commission effective April 5th after approval by the City Council. Lin spoke to Wayne Shepperd from

the Mayor's Office about the need for another commissioner and an advisor to the commission as Gio will no longer be our advisor for OQNC.

Mill Plain Swamp: Nothing new to report.

OQNC: Nothing new to report.

Added layer of protection for city parks: Nothing new to report.

New Business:

Lee Farm property: The use of the property appears to be on hold at this point so there is nothing new to report.

Progress of Open Space Bond properties: The recently acquired Farrington property is not yet ready for public use. A city task force is working on it but it probably won't be ready for National Trails Day on June 4th.

Other:

Deer culling on public lands: The commission, after much discussion on this issue, is against the hunting of deer on public lands for purposes of culling. Lin will notify Nick Kaplanis of our decision.

Commission participation in National Trails Day: The Conservation Commission is committed to two events at two locations on National Trails Day.

1. A letter boxing event at BMR from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and participation in the below listed walk for health.
2. A walk for health in numerous city parks of which the CC will oversee it at OQNC.

Motion to adjourn by Ed, seconded by Shaun, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

03/25/11